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Baloch militants attack Chinese engineers

Vehicles carrying Chinese engineers working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project came under attack in the port city of Gwadar in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Sunday

Majeed Brigade, the suicide squad of Balochistan Liberation Army, claimed responsibility

No Chinese nationals were injured in the attack

Two terrorists involved in the attack were killed by Pakistan's security forces

10 A.M. when terrorists armed with small arms and hand grenades took aim at the convoy

The Chinese embassy in Islamabad has demanded a thorough investigation

The CPEC project seeks to link China's western Xinjiang province to Gwadar port in Balochistan

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Hindu outfits announce resumption of VHP yatra

Mahapanchayat decides to resume yatra in Haryana's Nuh on Aug 28

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

A 'mahapanchayat' called by Hindu outfits in Haryana's Palwal on Sunday decided to resume the Vishva Hindu Parishad-led Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra, which was abruptly halted due to the communal violence in Nuh district on August 28.

Sources said the yatra will resume from Nalhar in Nuh and then pass through Firozepur Jhirka's Jhir and Singar temples in the district.

Mahapanchayat is a gathering of people from 10-12 villages. Around 1,500 people attended the meet on Sunday.

Urging Hindu youth to take up arms for self-defence, the mahapanchayat demanded that the government relax arms licence norms. It also raised several other demands, including a probe by the National Investigation Agency into the attack on the VHP yatra and declaring the violence-hit Nuh a cow slaughter-free district.

There were also calls for merging the Muslim-dominated Nuh with the adjoining districts of Gurugram, Palwal and Faridabad and trial of all the accused outside Nuh district.

Speaking at the meet, Acharya Azad Shashtri, head of Haryana Gau Rakshak Dal, said: "It is a do or die situation. Don't be scared of cases."

The mahapanchayat lauded the Haryana government's demolition drive, but said it was not enough and that rioters should be made to pay for the damage caused.

Among the other demands were ₹1 crore each to the kin of those killed in the communal clashes, ₹50 lakh to those injured and 100% compensation to the owners of vehicles, shops and houses damaged.

The mahapanchayat was held under the banner of 'Sarv Hindu Samaj', in which several Hindu outfits, including the Vishva Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal, took part.

It was originally planned to be held in Nuh district's Kira village but permission was denied for it in view of the prevailing law and order situation. Palwal and Nuh are adjoining districts.

Superintendent of Police of Palwal Lokender Singh said the permission for mahapanchayat was granted on several conditions, including prohibition on hate speech.

Around 1,500 people attended the Mahapanchayat at Nuh-Palwal border near Pondri village in Haryana on Sunday | PTI

'Need permanent central forces in Nuh'

The mahapanchayat sought permanent deployment of Rapid Action Force and four battalions of central forces in Nuh district, Haryana. They also demanded that the Rohingyas and other illegal migrants living in Nuh be removed forthwith and a law be made to enforce this

Upendra's 'anti-Dalit' comment sparks row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

LEADER of Uttama Prajakeeya Party and actor Upendra courted controversy on Sunday after he allegedly made a discriminatory statement against Dalits during his Facebook live session. His comment was widely criticised on social media sites, while protests were also held in some parts of Ramanagara, where his effigy was burnt.

Even as negative and angry responses started on social media, Upendra quickly tendered an apology and deleted the post. On his Facebook page, he said, "Those who are speaking against me today were not even born then. Fifty years ago, I saw cruel poverty, people dying by suicide by setting themselves on fire, hunger, humiliation and oppression. Would one who has grown up experiencing all this speak ill against a particular section? Am I crazy? What would I gain from it? Don't you have the courage to offer forgiveness? Why is there so much hate?"

The Chennammana Kere Achukattu police in Bengaluru registered an FIR against him based on a complaint filed by Madhusudhan KN, an Assistant Director of the Social Welfare Department. The police have booked the actor-politician under the provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The police said a decision will be taken to summon Upendra for questioning based on the findings of the investigation. "We will check in what context and with what intent he has made the statement. Based on that, further action will be initiated," a senior police officer said. P4

Army to push for patrolling rights in talks with PLA today

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

CORPS Commanders of India and China are set to hold the 19th round of meetings on Monday at Chushul-Moldo Meeting Point on the Indian side of the border to discuss the disengagement of troops from eastern Ladakh's remaining standoff points.

The thrust will be on the restoration of the Indian Army's patrolling rights up until the traditional patrolling points (PPs), sources said.

It was exclusively reported by this newspaper that the Indian Army has put its foot down on the issue of patrolling rights and has insisted with the Chinese side that it be allowed to patrol till the traditional patrolling points in the remaining standoff locations.

"The Indian stance on the standoff points has remained consistent — the restoration of status quo ante as of April 2020. Importantly, this entails the restoration of patrolling rights till the traditional patrolling points," a source said.

Depsang and Demchok are the two remaining standoff points. In Depsang, Chinese troops have blocked Indian access to PP 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13. As per sources, the total area here that remains out of access for Indian troops is about 952 sq km.

Monday's meeting comes over three years after the first round of Corps Commander's meetings was held on June 6, 2020, days after clashes between the Indian and Chinese forces in the Galwan Valley.

There's pressure to join BJP, but we won't budge, says Pawar

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

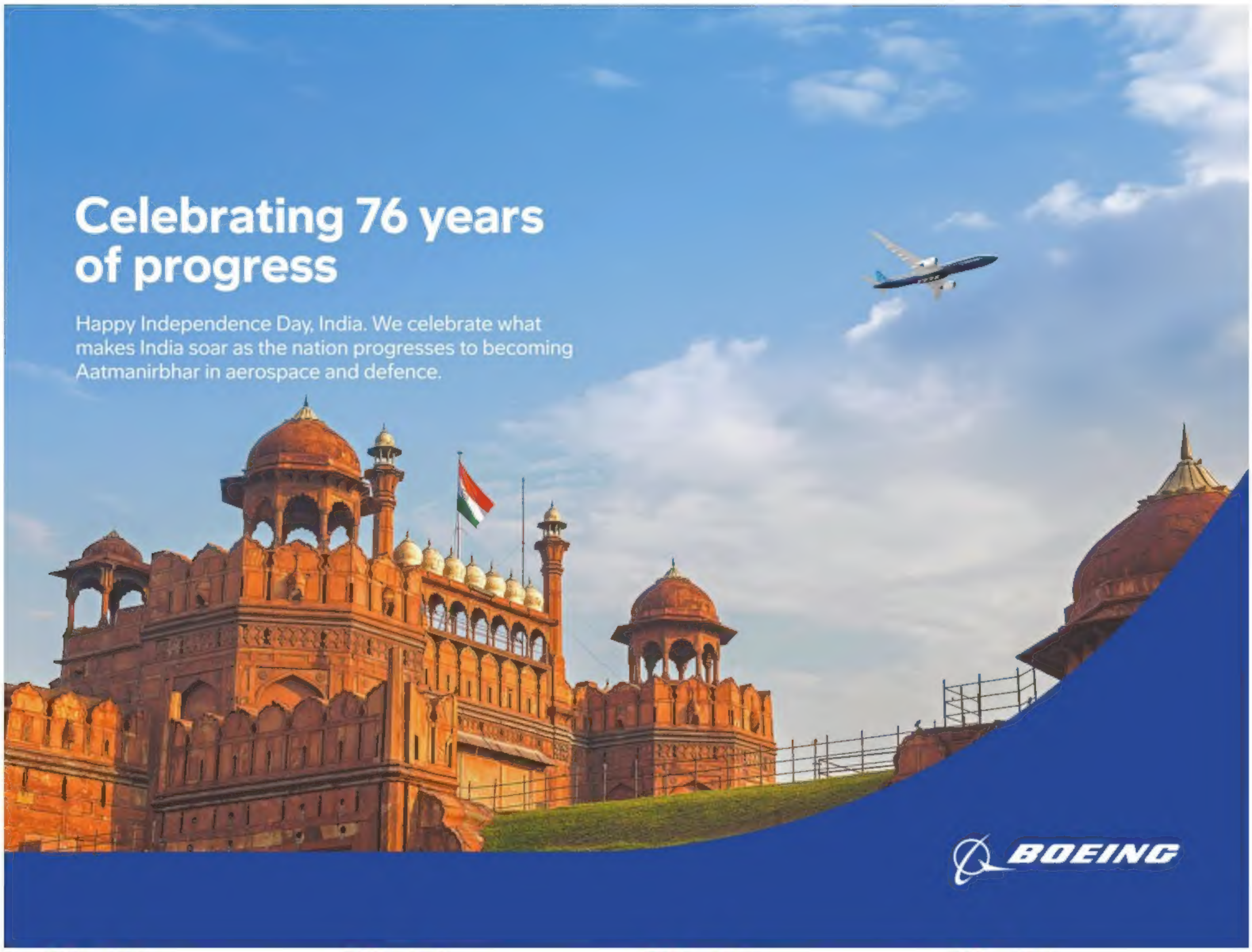
A day after he held a closed-door meeting with his nephew and Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said some well-wishers want him to join hands with the BJP, but he will not listen to them.

"There are some of us who have taken a different stand," Pawar said referring to Ajit's decision to join the BJP-led government in Maharashtra. "But we are very clear that any association with the BJP does not fit into our political ideology. So, no questions of NCP joining hands with the BJP," Pawar clarified. Highly-placed sources said the BJP leadership has told Ajit that he will be elevated as CM only if his uncle retires from active politics or extends support to the Ajit-led NCP faction, which supports the BJP. When asked about his meeting with Ajit, Pawar senior said, "It was not a secret meeting at all. Why people should object to meeting between family members?"

EXPRESS READ

Kids under 15 can't walk to Tirumala after 2 pm: TTD

TIRUMALA: In the wake of a leopard mauling a six-year-old girl to death in Tirumala on Friday, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced a ban on children aged under 15 walking to Tirumala after 2 pm. The children, along with their parents, are allowed to trek on both the footpath routes, from 5 am to 2 pm only. P5


Celebrating 76 years of progress
Happy Independence Day, India. We celebrate what makes India soar as the nation progresses to becoming Aatmanirbhar in aerospace and defence.
BOEING